

REMARKS:

Claims 9-18, and 21-40 are pending. Claims 1-8, 19, and 20 have been withdrawn. Claims 37 and 38 have been allowed. Claims 39 and 40 are cancelled. Claim 9 and 25 have been amended, as shown above, such that the cell is contacted *in vitro*. Support for the amendments may be found in examples 1-3 of the application.

I. §112 rejection, for enablement

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 9-18 and 21-36 under §112 for lack of enablement.

Independent claim 9, as amended, is directed to a method of decreasing cell proliferation. The method comprises contacting, *in vitro*, a eukaryotic cell comprising a wild-type MetAP2 with a composition comprising an isolated polynucleotide, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a variant eukaryotic MetAP2 that lacks aminopeptidase activity, comprises a eukaryotic translation domain, and possesses dominant negative MetAP2 activity, such that the dominant negative activity of the variant MetAP2 decreases the proliferation of the cell.

The Office has **thrice** acknowledged that claim 9, as amended, is enabled. Initially, in the Office action mailed February 12, 2007, the Office states on page 2 and page 6 that the application enables a "method of inhibiting cell proliferation *in vitro*."¹ Subsequently, in the Final Office Action mailed September 7, 2007, the Office stated again that the application is "enabling for a method of decreasing an eukaryotic cell proliferation *in vitro*."² Finally, in the Advisory Action mailed February 7, 2008, the Office stated that "the methods drawn to *in vitro* affecting of a cell.... is enabled."³

Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 9 and 25 to include the limitation *in vitro*. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request entry of these

¹ Office action mailed February 12, 2007, page 6.

² Office action mailed September 7, 2007, page 2

³ Advisory action mailed February 7, 2008, page 2

proposed amendments, withdrawal of the claim rejections, and solicit an allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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